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## NORTHEAST DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Thursday, April 4, 2013

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Wedgwood Presbyterian Church (8008 – 35<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE)

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### Meeting Minutes

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**Meeting called to Order:** Meeting called to order by Co-chair Tony Provine at 7:05

**Introductions:** Jeannie Hale, Laurelhurst CC; Nancy Bolin, View Ridge CC; Peter Zimmerman, ROMP, Tony Provine, Ravenna/Bryant CA; Kurt Westman, Wedgwood CC; Steve Wilkins, UDCC; Barbara Kreiger, Roanoke Park/Portage Bay CC; Barbara Quinn, University Park CC, Nicolette Bromberg, Belvedere Terrace; Ken Sparks, Inverness CA; Jenny Frankl, DON

**Guests:** Diana Kincaid, Caitlin McKee, Dave LaClergue, Susan McLain, Dongho Chang

**Secretary for the night:** Nancy Bolin, View Ridge CC

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion was approved unanimously.

**Announcements:** Jeannie Hale distributed NEDC April Announcements

**Public Comment:** None was offered.

### **Agenda Item:**

- ❖ **Park Board Announcement:** Park Board President Diana Kincaid and Board Member Caitlin McKee announced that the Parks Dept. and the Board are embarking on a public conversation on how to best sustain and build upon the current Park System. There will be a series of public meetings in May (May 7 at 100 Dexter N.; May 8 at Green Lake Community Center; May 13 at Northgate Community Center; May 16 at Jefferson Community Center, May 21 at Dakota Place Park Bldg., May 22 at South Shore School). The goal is to gather information from the public on what's desired and to integrate that feedback into the Parks Legacy Plan. The hope is to have this Plan released in the fall. This plan will have a big impact on future funding for parks. The Parks Dept. is focused on the following in developing this plan: health resource for all ages; financial stability; and excellence of the system.
- ❖ **U. District Urban Design Framework:** Barbara Quinn, Matt Hoehnen and DPD staff Dave LaClerque and Susan McLain

For the past year, members of the U District Community have worked with the Seattle Dept. of Planning and Development to develop a vision for the future of the U District—the recommendations from this process are presented in a draft Urban Design Framework. Community members who helped inform, draft and review the document include residents, business owners, the faith community, social service providers, developers and the University of Washington. Topics include:

- Public space—how can parks, streets and other public spaces better serve the needs of a growing community?
- Land use and height—what kinds of development does the community want to see and how can the City’s regulations help?
- Mobility—with light rail on the way, what are smart ways to support transportation choices to, from and within the U District?

Between 2013 and 2015, the U District Urban Design Framework will guide decisions relating to land use and design of the neighborhood.

The intent of the committee is making the U. District a more dynamic business area as well as making it clean and safe. Among other things, business owners would like to be able to face alleys similar establishments in Europe. Also there’s a desire for more green spaces. The committee has made a significant outreach effort to the community for input and will continue to seek comments from the public.

There was discussion of housing in the area: student needs, urban professionals, etc. It was noted that several “apodment” developments have been proposed. The City is looking carefully at how to shape development in this regard.

The next step is to study potential heights and densities through the U District EIS this year; it will include analysis of market conditions and demand for different uses. A presentation will be made to the public to gather additional feedback in September of this year.

There were questions on where student housing would go versus urban professionals. The current thought is to maintain more student housing and shops south of NE 50th and encourage more upscale development north of 50th to attract urban professional housing and retail.

It’s important for us as individuals and for our community groups to send comments to DPD and to the Seattle City Council.

- ❖ Pedestrian Safety Discussion: Dongho Chang, SDOT led the discussion, which was based on public reaction to a double pedestrian fatality accident that occurred recently at the corner of NE 75<sup>th</sup> St. and 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave. NE. Dongho has been deeply involved in investigating ways to make this arterial safer for pedestrians and cars and with particular attention to the students going to and leaving Eckstein Middle School. The street is confusing for many motorists because it is considered a 4-lane street but is not marked as such. SDOT has already reorganized areas where parents can drop off and pick up students. They are installing flashing lights indicating a 20-mph speed limit when the lights are flashing. They have also located a “your speed is” machine close to the crosswalk in front of the school so that motorists become more aware of their speed. Community meetings are planned for the end of the month to gather more public comments on improving safety along 75<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ NEDC Candidate Forum Planning & Discussion: The discussion centered on when the forum might be held and the consensus was sometime in June. A sub-committee was formed to work on the project: Peter, Tony, Per, Nancy, Jenny.

### **Decisions Made or Actions Taken:**

Decision Made To Hold July Meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup>

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.**